Welcome to the February edition of LEAP News! We hope you enjoy checking out what we've been up to during the lovely month of February. If you want to learn how to say "I Love You" in a different language, come by the LEAP office where we've got "I Love You" written in 22 different languages, all spoken by LEAP students and faculty.

LEAP & TESOL Collaboration

Every semester, students training to be English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers in the TESOL Program (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at Wright State work closely with LEAP. TESOL students complete their internships in LEAP, spending a semester in a class gaining practical experience teaching. They also complete practical components of various TESOL course assignments with the help of LEAP, including working one-on-one with LEAP students, collecting data for a grammar analysis project, creating tests for the TESOL Assessment class, being conversation partners, and organizing "Pronunciation Nights." The collaboration is a win-win for all involved: the TESOL students gain practical experience and the LEAP students gain additional English practice!

Pictured below: LEAP Level 1 student Abdallah from Jordan working with MA TESOL student Afaf.
Seven graduate students in Dr. Shengrong Cai's ENG 7520 TESOL Reading & Writing course are tutoring LEAP Level 1 and Level 2 students as part of a course assignment this semester. The students meet weekly in the LEAP Office. Says Dr. Cai about the collaboration, "The MA TESOL students get the great one-one-one opportunity to observe in-depth how ESL students decode and negotiate meaning in a second language. This provides valuable insights for the TESOL students, as future ESL teachers, to better understand the language learning process so that they can plan effective instructions to address students’ needs."

MA TESOL and ENG 7520 student Qingyu meets weekly with LEAP student Basim from Saudi Arabia. "Tutoring in LEAP offers me opportunities to know more about different languages, and it gives me insights into fascinating, diverse cultures," she says. Basim adds that the weekly meetings are helpful to practice English and learn new things, "and Qingyu is very nice and helpful too!"

Interested in collaborating with LEAP? Click here!

The LEAP Program Fund
The LEAP program promotes linguistic and cultural diversity and intercultural understanding with quality English instruction taught by highly qualified instructors. Your donation helps bring students together in social, cultural, and academic activities. It helps connect the world.

Available Funds:

- **LEAP Program fund**: Supports the activities of the LEAP program

- **LEAP Scholarship fund**: Award recipients and number and amount of awards will be determined by the LEAP program office

Donations to the LEAP Program Fund help pay for LEAP extra-curricular activities and field trips to local places of interest. Fall semester, we explored Dayton together with RTA. After learning how to use the local public transportation system, RTA, we visited the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and enjoyed lunch at the 2nd Street Market downtown. What are we doing spring semester? Find out in our March newsletter!

**Make a Donation**

Thank you for your support!

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**LEAP Cultural Hour: Valentine's Day**

February is the month of **LOVE** and we wasted no time celebrating Valentine's Day with our students! Our office included multiple "activity stations" where students made Valentine's Day cards and gift bags, solved crossword puzzles to learn Valentine's Day vocabulary, a popcorn station for creating cute to-go bags and a poster on which to write "I Love You" in all the languages LEAP students speak. Thank you Jose and Marleny from Honduras for treating everyone to yummy cupcakes!
On February 18, we held another LEAP Success Workshop for LEAP students and others on campus interested in learning ways to improve their English pronunciation. "How to Improve Your English Pronunciation" was led by LEAP instructor Pam Everly who had participants work on sound qualities, syllable stress, word boundaries, stress timing and intonation.
Donuts 4 Dudes!

LEAP students study hard, taking English classes 18 hours per week. They deserve a break and what better way to relax than with some coffee and donuts from the best donut place in Dayton, Bill's Donuts!
Ali Hasan Ali from Mosul, Iraq, came to Wright State in January 2015. Together with 30 other students from Iraq, Ali had been awarded a scholarship from the Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq to study English for one year in LEAP and then continue in a graduate program at WSU. Ali earned the LEAP TOEFL Waiver and passed the IELTS test in December 2015 and started his studies in the MS Applied Mathematics program in the College of Science and Mathematics at Wright State in January 2016. Ali graduated in December 2017 and returned to Iraq. We recently caught up with Ali and asked what he's been up to. "Currently, I work as an assistant lecturer at University of Basrah in southern Iraq. I teach Calculus to the 1st year students and Numerical Analysis to the 3rd year students. I am also a member of the Information Technology Unit in the College of Education for Pure Sciences. I am in charge of managing the website of the college and checking scientific pages and profiles of the Mathematics Department staff." Ali’s current work is keeping him plenty busy, but he has plans to continue studying for a PhD in the future.

#WrightStateRightSchool

Former LEAP Students:
What are you up to? Do you have a success story of your own?
Email Jeannette at jeannette.horwitz@wright.edu.
We love to follow up with LEAP alumni and would like to feature your story in an upcoming edition of LEAP News!

#LEAPIntoWSU - Observing University Classes

Each semester, Level 3 students get a chance to observe university classes to see what they are like. Some of the students recently observed a biology class taught by Florence Walusimbi, faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences. The class focused on infant and maternity health, a topic of interest to some of the L3
LEAP will have a booth at this year’s International Women’s Day. Join us!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Free Event

International Women’s Day is an annual celebration empowering women from different cultures and backgrounds, to integrate, and learn ways to take care of them selves emotionally and remove barriers that prevent them from achievement or personal growth.

Grace United Methodist Church
1001 Harvard Blvd, Dayton
Saturday, March 7th 11AM-3:30PM

Contact: Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez 937-333-1406
Food | Children's Activities | Yoga | Speakers
Basic Health Screenings

Coming Soon:
....another session of LEAP Pronunciation Improvement!

The deadline to register for our 6-week evening course, LEP 0550 - Pronunciation Improvement is Friday, February 28. Contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu to learn more.
Upcoming Events:

LEAP Day Celebration (2020 is a leap year!), 10:15-10:45 a.m. LEAP Office Lobby. 
(City of Dayton Commissioner Matt Joseph will present a LEAP Day 2020 Proclamation from the City of Dayton and Mayor Nan Whaley.)

WSU Spring Break: March 2 - 6

LEAP Cultural Hour: Game Day, March 10, 11:00 - 12:00 p.m., LEAP Office

LEAP On-Campus Field Trip Day, March 17, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LEAP Ladies Tea & Talk with special guest, March 19, 11:00 - 12:00 p.m., LEAP Office

LEAP Success Workshop #3 "Test Preparation," 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., 494 Allyn Hall